(b) if so, the details in this regard: and

(c) the steps Government proposes to take to ensure transparency and accountability?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) On account of the complaints/allegations received recently in the Ministry as well as the University Grants Commission against the Vice Chancellors and other officials of Nagaland University, Aligarh Muslim University and Visva Bharati, Fact Finding Committees have been constituted. These allegations/ complaints relate, *inter-alia*, to financial mismanagement, misappropriation of funds, irregularities in appointments, violation of University Statutes and Ordinances, personal charges against the Statutory officers of the University, etc.

Central Universities are governed by the respective Universities' Acts and the Statutes. The Act provides for submission of the Annual Report and the Annual Accounts along with the balance sheet of the University, audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, before both the Houses of Parliament. This, along with the built-in mechanism of checks and balances in the system, ensures transparency and accountability in the functioning of the Universities.

Standard of education in universities

214. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no Indian university in the top 100 universities of the World;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to improve standard of education in universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) While certain institutions or agencies occasionally publish list of universities or educational institutions ranked according to their own criteria, there is no authentic official international agency for the global ranking of universities. In a recent global survey of world universities by the Times Higher Education Supplement (THES) the Indian Institute of Technology at Mumbai has been ranked at 163rd position and the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi at the 181st position. While Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) of Delhi and Mumbai have scored highly on all other attributes in comparison to the globally reputed institutions, two factors attributed to the lower ranking of IITs in the said survey are reportedly low scores on international staff and international students in IITs.

Improvement of quality of higher education is a continuous process. A substantial increase in Plan allocation has been made in the Eleventh Plan aiming at improvement of quality through increased allocation for improvement of infrastructure in the existing higher and technical educational institutions and by way of setting up of new quality institutions such as Central Universities in uncovered States, establishment of Innovation Universities aiming at world class standards^ quality institutions such as Indian Institutes of Technology, Indian Institutes of Management, Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research, Indian Institutes of Information Technology, Schools for Planning and Architecture, establishment of 50 centres for training and research in frontier areas of Science and Technology etc.

Quality of teaching in higher education is a matter of great concern. When the Pay Review Committee recommendations in respect of teachers in colleges and universities were taken up by the Central Government, the salaries and other allowances for teachers, higher than those for the Group "A" Civil Services was agreed to by the Government on the condition that the eligibility conditions would be tightened and qualifications would be of a high order. The age of superannuation of teachers in higher education has also been increased from 62 year to 65 years. These steps would ensure that over time the best talent comes into the academic professions through a process of tightening entry and liberalizing pay and other incentives.

Greater autonomy to IITs

215. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether greater autonomy is proposed to be granted to Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) in their apex-decision making process;

(b) if so, the details of extant process *vis-d-vis* those proposed to be granted / revised;

(c) whether it is a fact that selections/appointments of IIT Directors are presently entrusted to the IIT Council;

(d) if so, the details of Council constituents as in March, 2004, March, 2008 and currently; and

(e) the occasions since 2004 when IIT Council meetings were convened for selection of Directors and other incumbents for their actual selections/ appointments and occasions for approving those *post-facto* indicating reasons for resorting to *post-facto* in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) are autonomous Institutes of National Importance set up by the Government of India. However, in its recent meeting of the Council of IITs, held on 19th October, 2009, under the chairmanship of Minister of Human Resource Development, it was *inter-alia* decided to constitute a five member Committee, headed by Dr. Anil Kakodkar, Chairman, Board of Governors, IIT-Bombay, to suggest a road map for future of the IITs, including giving them more autonomy and suggest ways and means for raising more resources and also bring focus back on research.